

ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

May 2021



Group Number 4178
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Cover Photo – Main Street Haworth

One of the regions many tourist attractions, this street must have been familiar to the Brontes. At the top of the hill is the Bronte Parsonage Museum and at the bottom of the hill is the station for the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway.

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

Because of the current Covid-19 situation the committee is following government guidelines and has cancelled the skill check meetings, and the social and committee meetings at the Carlton Club.

We were planning to hold the AGM in May, but at the recent committee meeting it was decided to postpone it until early October when we hope to be able to hold it at the Carlton Club but if this is not possible we will hold it by video conference as we did last year.

Should we be able to hold the AGM at the Carlton Club we would hope to be able to resume our social meetings in November but will have to be guided by the regulations current at the time.

We will inform members of the resumption of the social and skill check meetings via the newsletter, and our Facebook and website pages.

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Spring Cleaning

Spring is here and it's time to start washing the car again. Time to remove all the dirt and salt accumulated over the winter months. Time to get the bucket and sponge out or do you take the easy route and take your car to the local car wash or even wait for the garage to wash it as part of the annual service.

I've always used the bucket and sponge method as it gives me the opportunity to examine the body work for signs of any damage but I don't take it to extremes just wash off the dirt, make sure all the windows, lights and wheels are clean. Then move on to the interior, vacuuming away all the dirt and stones from the carpets and mats and finally clean the inside of the windscreen. It's also worth opening the bonnet to top up the washer bottle.

A final check of the tyre pressures and resetting of the tyre pressure monitor and it's ready for a test drive. Isn't it amazing how much better your car goes after it's been washed and the interior cleaned!

From the Editor

At last we can see the Covid restrictions being lifted and some form of our former lives returning. Let us hope that the government is not being too hasty and there will be no further lockdowns.

One consequence of the last year has been that with no social meetings I have had to dig deeper to find items to replace the monthly meeting reports! However it is unlikely that the social meetings will be starting soon but we would hope to restart them again in October.

In the anticipation that we can begin travelling to other areas, and even to Wales or Scotland, I am intending to include places of interest to visit beginning, on page 14, with a “maintained ruin” in the Lake District that Caroline and I visited in 2014. If you have any suggestions I’d be interested to hear them. Just send me a few brief details and if possible a photo or two.

Keith

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Social Media

Do you use social media on a regular basis? Are you familiar with setting up and running social media accounts? If so you could be just the person we are looking for. As you may know MYAM has a presence on Facebook and we are looking for someone to look after our account and to keep our website up to date. If you think you can help us please let either our chairman Janice or secretary Paul know at the addresses on page 16.

Will any Member wishing to have an item, article or picture included in the newsletter please submit it to the editor no later than the 15th of the month, these may be edited to save space. Thank you.

Disclaimer

The items contained in this newsletter are the views of the Members who contribute and not necessarily the views of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (I.A.M.) or MYAM.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to the Group

New Associates

Kirill Gordeenko, Joanne Johnson, Nathan Smith
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The End of the Rainbow

Last week, my friend, Pat, and I went out for the day. We are in the same “bubble”, and so we were not breaking any rules.

On the way home, it started to rain. After a short time, the sun came out and there was a beautiful complete rainbow.

By the time we got back to Pat’s home, the rain had stopped, but the rainbow was still clearly to be seen. We both remarked at the time that the arc of the rainbow was very shallow and low in the sky, which was very unusual.

As Pat was in the kitchen putting the kettle on, I stood looking out of the window, which fills one wall of the lounge. She has a huge garden, and I love watching the birds, rabbits, and squirrels. The rainbow was still complete, but very low, and I stood watching it for some minutes. Then, as my eyes followed the arc, I suddenly realised that the nearest end of the rainbow could clearly be seen resting on a rose bush about ten feet outside the window!

I hastily called Pat, and we stood watching it in wonderment until the colours began to fade. I always thought the stories about leprechauns and pots of gold at the end of the rainbow were just folk tales – but I was wrong.

We did consider digging up the rose tree to see if there really was a pot of gold, but we decided that the poor rose bush didn’t deserve such punishment!

Unfortunately, I was so shocked I didn’t think to try and take a photograph!! So you’ll just have to take my word for it!

Janice



Taken from our garden a few years ago

MYAM Online



WEB SITE Our website is packed full of information and is the go to place for everything you need to know about our events, courses, meetings and news about us as a Group. How about copies of the newsletter going back a few years.

Need to know who the Committee are or see our Observer team? We are all on there.

See us at www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire

We are adding to the content all the time so keep dropping in to see what we are doing.



FACEBOOK provides details of events and local news. Go and visit www.facebook.com/midyorkshireiam and like our page.

How about inviting a few of your Facebook friends to like our page too. It helps getting our name out there.

The Group Telephone number is 0113 314 9969

Data Protection – Privacy Notice (GDPR)

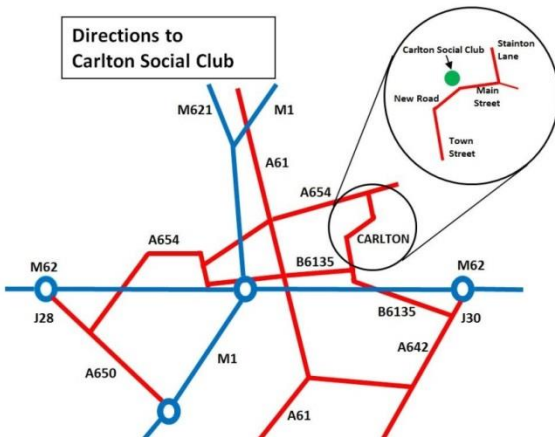
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) is committed to looking after the information that it holds on behalf of its members in a way that complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

MYAM has a legitimate interest in keeping sufficient personal information to communicate with its members and other local people with an interest in road safety, and to permit the renewal of subscriptions. A member can ask to see a copy of their personal information, correct any errors and ask for all or part of it to be deleted.

MYAM is affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) and will use a member's information to support them if and when they are assessed by IAM. MYAM will also ensure that any data shared with IAM is accurate. We will not share your details with anybody else.

Directions to the Carlton Social Club

Main Street, Carlton, Wakefield WF3 3RW



From the M62 West leave at Junction 28 and take the A650 towards Wakefield. At the next set of traffic lights turn left onto the A654 toward Rothwell. Follow the A654, turning left in Thorpe on the Hill. Cross the A61 and continue into Carlton. Turn right into Stainton Lane then turn right into Main Street. The Social Club is on the right immediately after the Unicorn pub.

From the M62 East leave at junction 30 and take the A642 towards Wakefield.

Take the next right, B6135, towards Lofthouse. Follow the B6135 under the M62 onto Ouzlewell Green towards Carlton and Rothwell. Follow the road past Carlton Primary School and the Social Club is on the left just before the Unicorn pub.

There is a car park with overspill parking available on the grass area opposite the club.

Update From the Chief Observer

Hello everyone.

As you will be aware I was appointed as the interim Chief Observer for the Group in February this year and I'm sure many of you will have seen me around at the various Group activities including the Skill Check sessions at Castleford.

I have been involved with the IAM for over 35 years and joined what was the Wakefield Advanced Motorists Group in 1992 following a move to Wakefield. During my period in the Wakefield Group, I held a number of positions alongside my observer roles. In the late 1990's I became the Group Training Officer for both Associate and Observer training which I continued until 2005 when due to work commitments I returned to the role of Group Observer. Following the formation of Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) in 2014, I became an IMI Local Group Observer and also supported my predecessor in a number of Observer and Associate training initiatives.

Obviously, my key focus to-date is the planning of our resumption of on the road training following the lifting of restrictions over the coming months. The position is subject to there being no change in the Government Key Milestone dates for the lifting of restrictions but the plan is as follows:

From Monday 12th April 2021, on-road training of Observers recommenced albeit with only 2 people per car and the guidance from IAM RoadSmart is that journeys should be kept local wherever possible. I am currently working on a schedule for those Observers who have indicated specific areas where refresher training is required. As we can meet outside in groups of up to 6 people consideration is also being given as to how we may be able to hold Observer face-to-face sessions to provide peer support and guidance where appropriate. I will hopefully be in a position to update observers later this month.

On Monday 17th May 2021, Associate on-road training can recommence as can Advanced tests. There are however a number of factors we need to consider here including; Observers and Associates who may feel uncomfortable in resuming straight away and wish to wait for a few months or until they have received their first/second vaccination, the ratio of Associates to Observers and the number and availability of examiners to undertake the tests. I am aware that we had a number of Associates who were 'test ready' just prior to the restrictions imposed in October last year and we may need to concentrate on these ahead of Associates who had just commenced their

guidance sessions. Further communication will follow once we know the number of Observers who are happy to return to guidance in the short-term.

I must stress that neither the Group or IAM RoadSmart are placing any pressure on Observers or Associates to return to on road guidance until they are ready to do so with safety being the overarching priority and therefore if there are any doubts or reservations drives must not take place.

Should any Observer or Associate have any questions or need clarification of any points please do not hesitate to contact me either by email or phone and my details can be found on back page of the newsletter.

Chris Marrison - Chief Observer

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Breaking News



Yorkshire holds it breath as the main shipping route of pork pies is blocked!!

Fred Slathwaite, captain of the vessel, said “One minute we were fine, then a gust of wind caught us!!”

“Yorkshire is expected to lose as much as £3.45 a day until the carnage can be cleared, which could potentially take weeks to clear“ a spokesman said.

Smart Motorway Survey Results

You may, or may not, be aware that IAM RoadSmart recently held a survey of its members attitude to Smart Motorways and have now released the results.

Over 4,700 responses were received to our recent survey on smart motorways. Most respondents had already used them, so their comments and votes are very useful. The opinions expressed were overwhelmingly negative.

81% felt less safe on a smart motorway and the same number wanted the hard shoulder to be reinstated immediately. 85% supported the stopping of the building of any more smart motorways until the safety case is proven. Alarmingly 85% said that they would not trust the technology to protect them if they ever broke down in a live lane of a smart motorway. The vast majority also supported more frequent safety refuges or going back to a continuous hard shoulder. Slightly more positively, one in five IAM RoadSmart Members had seen some improvement in congestion because of smart motorways, and just over half felt that they knew what to do in the event of a breakdown.

Neil Greig has already shared some of these findings at a major safety conference which was addressed by Road Safety Minister, Baroness Vere, and senior people from Highways England. The findings will also be formed into a strong call to action in our response to the House of Commons Transport Committee inquiry that ends soon. Many thanks to all of you who took the time to respond. Such an overwhelming response from a group of drivers who are confident and knowledgeable about motorways gives us a really strong message to take back to the government.

I think this reinforces the view that there is still a significant amount of work to be done before the changes to the motorway system are considered safe by motorists. It is often said that motorways are safer than other roads but when an accident does happen on a motorway it can quickly escalate into a major incident.

I'm sure we've all seen the recently introduced "Go Left" advertising campaign on TV. That is all very well but if there is nowhere to stop safely what can you do?

Do you have any views on Smart motorways? If so please send them to me at the address on page 16.

Highways England Unveils Multi-Million-Pound Initiative to Revitalize Ageing Concrete Roads

Highways England has announced two contracts worth £285 million to upgrade the concrete surface of roads across the country.

Making up almost 400 miles (4%) of England's motorway and major A-road network, concrete roads were built largely in the 1960s and 70s, when traffic volumes were half of what they are today.

They are mostly found along the eastern side of the country, in the North East, Yorkshire, East Anglia and the South East, but there are also some smaller stretches in other parts of England.

Despite providing 50 years of virtually maintenance-free life, decades of use and hundreds of millions of journeys has left these roads in need of vital upgrades.

Over the next five years to 2025, Highways England will work with leading engineering and construction companies Morgan Sindall Infrastructure, John Sisk & Son, VolkerFitzpatrick, Colas Ltd, Dyer & Butler and Tarmac on a long-term programme of repair or replacement.

Martin Fellows, Highways England regional director, said: "This is the biggest concrete road renewals programme we have ever embarked on and we're pleased to have awarded the final two contracts that will help us deliver the maximum benefits of safe, reliable and smooth journeys for many years to come."

Depending on the condition of the roads, some will be repaired to extend their life and others will be fully replaced.

The two contracts awarded today (30th March) are:

- Reconstruction Framework worth £218 million, which will see Morgan Sindall Infrastructure and John Sisk & Son on a design-and-build arrangement to demolish existing concrete road surfaces that are in poor condition and replace with a new smoother surface.
- Lifecycle Extension Works Framework worth £67 million, which will see VolkerFitzpatrick, Colas, Dyer & Butler and Tarmac deliver specialist repairs to maximize the life of the existing concrete surfaces of motorways and major A roads.

The concrete roads renewal programme includes plans to recycle and reuse materials wherever possible and a Centre of Excellence has been established to co-ordinate innovative ways of renewing these vital roads.

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Refuelling Problems

Consider this scenario, you drive to the petrol station to refuel your car only to find that the nozzle on the fuel pump will not fit your car as it's designed for a different make of car. Then when you finally find a petrol station and fill up, you can't pay with cash, or a credit/debit card. Instead you have to create an account with that particular company and use their app on your phone to pay for your fuel. Then if you travel to a different area and need to refuel you need an account with a different company.

Sounds a bit far-fetched but this is the situation facing many electric car drivers. It's all very well being able to charge your car at home but if you make a long journey and need to charge your car in a different area it appears that you would need to set up accounts to be able to use charging stations in the area you are visiting. All this is in addition to the problem of finding a vacant compatible charging point.

It's all very well manufacturers saying you can drive from your home in say Birmingham to Newcastle on one charge but can you get back? How long would it take you to find a compatible charger, both in terms of connector and payment method, and recharge. There was the case I heard of an electric car driver who drove from Halifax to the West Country easily but took 11 hours to get back because of incompatible chargers whereas in a petrol or diesel car the same journey would have taken about half the time.

These problems of charging electric cars have been highlighted in a recent report from Which.

[Five problems with electric car charging and how to fix them – Which? News](#)

Until a simple universal system for charging, and paying for charging, equivalent to the current system for petrol and diesel vehicles, is introduced, there will be many frustrated electric car drivers. This system and the infrastructure to support them needs to be in place before the sale of new petrol and diesel only cars is banned in 2030.

I'll be hanging onto my current car as long as I can, then would consider a hybrid rather than an electric replacement as this seems to be the best compromise at present.

9 Tips For Sharing The Road With Cyclists

During the pandemic, we've seen more cyclists out on the road. And with spring here, there will be more vulnerable road users making the most of the sunshine. This week's tips give advice on sharing the road with cyclists from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards, Richard Gladman.

1. Leave enough room. When riding or driving leave enough room between you and the cyclist, you never know when you have to stop and you want to make sure there is enough space in the event of anything unexpected happening.
2. Police forces are enforcing 1.5 meters as the minimum passing width but the easiest way to remember is to treat the cyclist as you would a car. Give them space and treat 1.5 meters as a minimum.
3. Don't overtake a cyclist into a loss of vision as the car towards would possibly cause you to move towards the cyclists. Look beyond the cyclist to develop your ability to get past, keeping a distance of 1.5 meters width and two or three car lengths behind them. Remember, the closer you are, the more nervous the cyclist(s) will be which may result in them becoming unbalanced.
4. Be careful when overtaking groups of cyclist and ensure you can see well ahead before attempting an overtake. If cyclists are in single file, bear in mind how long you will need to overtake them, and how far ahead the road needs to be clear, as you will not be able to filter in and out.
5. The Highway Code ([rule 212](#)) states: "When passing motorcyclists and cyclists, give them plenty of room. If they look over their shoulder it could mean that they intend to pull out, turn right or change direction. Give them time and space to do so."
6. Ensure your view ahead is clear and visible before overtaking. Bear in mind that cyclists may need to move suddenly to avoid obstacles such as potholes and puddles ([Highway Code rule 213](#)). Being patient and paying attention to these details will help keep yourself and the cyclist safe on the road.
7. During the pandemic, the Government has encouraged us to use different means of transport rather than public transport. Post lockdown, we will experience all types of cyclists; those who have just started out, families, people who have not been on a bike

for years and more experienced cyclists. As motorists, we need to ensure we share the road and adapt our [driving to keep vulnerable road users safe](#).

8. Take your time. Don't lose your hair and lose your temper waiting for a cyclist on the road. Acting irrationally leads to unnecessary road rage and accidents that could be easily avoided.
9. After parking, check for other road users by opening your door using the Dutch reach method; check your mirrors and reach across with your left hand. This encourages you to look over your shoulder and check your blind spot to see if it is safe to open the door.

Richard said: "Cycling has never been so popular and sharing the road safely is the key to ensuring we all get to enjoy the sunshine. Cyclists don't have a safety cell of metal, seatbelts and airbags around them so the onus has to be on the driver to look out for the most vulnerable on our roads. Giving them a bit more time and a lot more space will make life easier for all of us."

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Lowther Castle - A Conserved Ruin



Of the many treasures waiting to be discovered in the English Lake District, Lowther Castle is a particular gem. Built at the turn of the 19th century on the site of two previous houses, the castle was a grand affair boasting a room for every day of the year. Its gardens were the envy of the north.

But in 1957 the castle was demolished. Just the façade and outer walls remained standing and for over half a century, the place was empty – home only to chickens, pigs and the odd bat. The gardens were lost to wilderness.

(Information taken from the Lowther Castle website [Lowther Castle & Gardens - a stunning Lake District visitor attraction](#))

And Finally.....

A Brummy goes for a job interview. He turns up wearing a polyester shirt, platform shoes and a pinstripe suit with massive flares.

The interviewer somewhat taken aback says “All you need now is a kipper tie!”

To which the Brummy replies “Yes please, milk and two sugars.”

This Month’s Teaser

Which film actor was reported to have entered a look-alike completion for himself and came 20th?

Last Month’s Teaser

The answers to the Worlds Easiest Quiz last month quiz are:-

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last? - 116 years
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats? - Ecuador
- 3) From which animal do we get catgut? - Sheep and Horses
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution? - November
- 5) What is a camel’s hair brush made of? - Squirrel fur
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Atlantic are named after what animal? - Dogs
- 7) What was King George VI’s first name? - Albert
- 8) What colour is a purple finch? - Crimson
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from? - New Zealand
- 10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane? - Orange

Anyone get 100%?

Your Committee

Chairman	Janice Haigh		myam.chairman(at)outlook.com
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Treasurer	Rosie Bricis	07579 965029	myam.treasurer(at)outlook.com
Membership Secretary	Graham Crawshaw	0113 314 9969	myam.membership(at)outlook.com
Youth Liaison	David Speight		
Speaker Secretary	David Speight		
Events Manager	Alan Jones	07714 444595	alan.j909(at)btinternet.com
Website	Position vacant		myam.webmaster(at)outlook.com
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Chief Observer	Chris Marrison	07798 822935	myam.chiefobserver@outlook.com
GDPR Manager	David Rockliff		

Due to computer hacking and high levels of spamming we have had to remove the hyperlinks to our e-mail addresses and have replaced the @ symbol with (at) so you will need to retype the address in the correct e-mail format, i.e. replace (at) with @, with no spaces.

URGENT REQUEST

David Speight has taken on the role of Speaker Secretary but we still need a minutes secretary for our committee meetings and someone to look after the Website. Please contact any member of the committee if you are interested in any of these positions.